



**Pend Oreille Voluntary Stewardship Program
Work Group Meeting Minutes: 1-28-2021**

Meeting Start – 12:00 – 1:29

In attendance via Go To Meeting: Larry Cordes, Lisa Alkire, Alex Case Cohen, John Small, Ben Floyd, Levi Keesecker, Mike Lithgow, Nicole Stout, Sharon Sorby, Renee Kinnick

| Motion | Motion made by: | Motioned seconded by: | Decision | By what date: |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------|----------|---------------|
| Approve the 5 year report made by White bluffs consulting to officially submit. | Larry Cordes | Mike Lithgow | Approved | |
| Approved funds to pasture restoration as long as its not in the WRP | Mike Lithgow | Larry Cordes | Approved | |
| Approved purchase of Land Pride All Purpose Seeder. Dependent on allow, Alex, Larry and the equipment dealer make a decision. | Jon Paul Driver | Mike Lithgow | Approved | |

Public Comments: No comment received.

1. Review Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes

2. Review 5 Year Report

- Ben Floyd presented important updates on the 5 year report progress for approval. (Please request presentation if you have not already received it).
- Alex Case Cohen had a question about page 12 of the presentation about the 89 water bodies quoted have improved. It was clarified by White Bluffs that they have not changed much.
- Levi Keesecker asked **are all of these water bodies close or related to ag activities?**
- Larry Cordes asked if we can identify the water bodies not improving so we could dedicate VSP efforts to those areas. It is unclear which bodies can be identified at this time but will look into this matter further.

- Indicators are hard to interpret and complicated and will have discussions about it moving forward in adaptive management. For now we are just focusing on whether or not the county is meeting its goals and benchmarks.
- Pend Oreille County met and or exceeded all 2021 benchmarks. No adaptive management is necessary in the 5 year report.

3. Program Updates

- Updating budget and implementation projects
- Updating contracts for project implementation
- Working with Kalispel Tribe of Indians to streamline cultural resources process
- Board of Supervisors approved proposal with SCCD and Kalispel Tribe for summer education programming.

4. Program Priorities

- Renew work group participation and members
- Establishing by-laws and more formal work group format
- Determine budget for next biennium (22-23)
- Optimizing our Work Plan: adapting outreach/participation priorities. Reconsidering on the ground monitoring. Reassessing BMP/stewardship priorities.

5. Project proposal to pasture restoration project adjacent to WRP Grounds.

- Total Cost estimate of \$5,996.00 but landowner would pay \$1,499.00

6. VSP Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Estimate

- Funds available \$135,070.00.
- Funds estimated to spend before ends is just about \$64,000
- Total Cost share projects amount to \$54,790.00
- Total cost share project funds remaining \$50,996
- 13 projects total, 12 are still incomplete but in process to completion before June 1
- After expenses, staff time and cost share allocations we have a balance of \$19,543 leftover.
- Mike Lithgow requested Dana Bowers present project to work group
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7. Purchasing Equipment for VSP

- LandPride APS1572-01 15 Series All Purpose Seeder
- 6 ft width. Can be loaded on 8 ft trailer and stored at POCD.
- Comes with 11-21 rear spike roller.
- Best for a 50-horsepower tractor
- Total cost would be \$10,114.40

8. Update on outreach

- Lisa Alkire is no longer employed by the Pend Oreille County Weed Board. She is here still as a courtesy on behalf of the Pend Oreille Conservation District and her total investment thus far into the success of the VSP Program. If you have any questions pertaining the educational program of VSP she's happy to talk- email her at lisaa@pocd.org.

9. Next Steps

- Next meeting is April – we'll be talking about new VSP employee opportunities and new cost share projects for the future